

**Introduced by Senator Aanestad**

February 26, 2009

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An act to amend Section 1400 of the Military and Veterans Code, relating to veterans.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SB 469, as introduced, Aanestad. Northern California Veterans Cemetery: fees.

Existing law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs, in voluntary cooperation with the Shasta County Board of Supervisors and the boards of supervisors of other participating northern California counties, as specified, to design, develop, and construct a state-owned and state-operated Northern California Veterans Cemetery located in Northern California. Existing law authorizes honorably discharged veterans and their spouses and children to be interred at the cemetery, and requires a fee of \$500 to be charged for each spouse or child interred at the cemetery.

This bill would authorize the fee for the interment of the spouses and children of honorably discharged veterans to be waived if the cemetery administrator determines that the families of the spouses or children do not have sufficient means to pay for the costs of interment, and would require any costs for these interments to be paid from nonstate funds. This bill would require the cemetery administrator to seek reimbursements, as specified, and would authorize the cemetery administrator to solicit private donations, to offset any fees lost as a result of this fee waiver.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 1400 of the Military and Veterans Code is amended to read:

1400. (a) (1) The Department of Veterans Affairs, in voluntary cooperation with the Shasta County Board of Supervisors and the boards of supervisors of other participating northern California counties as specified in Section 1401, shall design, develop, and construct a state-owned and state-operated Northern California Veterans Cemetery—~~which~~ *that* shall be located in northern California.

(2) The department shall oversee and coordinate the design, development, and construction of the cemetery.

(b) (1) Those eligible for interment in the cemetery are all honorably discharged veterans and their spouses and children. A fee of five hundred dollars (\$500) shall be charged for each spouse or child interred in the cemetery.

(2) For ~~the~~ purposes of this subdivision, the department shall adopt regulations to specify the eligibility requirements for interment in the cemetery.

(3) All fees received pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be deposited in the Northern California Veterans Cemetery Perpetual Maintenance Fund created pursuant to Section 1401.

(c) (1) *Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of subdivision (b), the fee for the interment of the spouses or children of eligible veterans may be waived if the cemetery administrator determines that the families of the spouses or children do not have sufficient means to pay for the costs of interment.*

(2) *Any costs for the interment of the spouses or children of eligible veterans who received a waiver pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be paid from nonstate funds.*

(3) *The cemetery administrator shall seek reimbursements, if any are available, from federal, county, and other local agencies to offset any fees lost as a result of the waiver authorized pursuant to paragraph (1).*

(4) *The cemetery administrator may solicit private donations to offset any fees lost as a result of the waiver authorized pursuant to paragraph (1).*

(5) *Any moneys received pursuant to this subdivision to offset fees shall be deposited in the Northern California Veterans*

- 1 *Cemetery Perpetual Maintenance Fund, in addition to the fees*
- 2 *that are required to be deposited pursuant to paragraph (3) of*
- 3 *subdivision (b).*

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